In the Specification

Please amend paragraph [0027] on page 5 of the disclosure (Substitute Specification) as follows:

An exemplary embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the drawing and described below.

Figure 1 shows a schematic IP network with internal network node control components AC according to the prior art~~,~~.

Figure 2 shows an IP network with the same structure as in figure 1 with external control components AC connected to the network node according to the invention.

Figure 3 is a flow chart of a method embodying aspects of the invention for relaying Internet Protocol (IP) packets to the external control component in the IP network of figure 2.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0037] on page 7 of the disclosure:

Figure 3 is a flow chart of an example method embodying aspects of the invention for relaying Internet Protocol (IP) packets to the external control component in the IP network of FIG. 2. Subsequent to start step 8, step 10 allows receiving an in-band IP signaling packet at an external interface of the network node. Step 12 allows connecting the external interface to the external control component. Step 14 allows identifying the packet as an RSVP (Resource Reservation Protocol) type of packet. Step 16 allows modifying a DSCP (Differentiated Services Code Point) field in the header of the packet as a function of the receiving external interface. The DSCP field contains the value uniquely assigned to the receiving external interface. Prior to return step 20, step 18 allows routing the modified packet to the external control component connected to the external interface.